to develop inland waterways transport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) has Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted any proposal for developing canal transport in Andhra Pradesh; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any funds have been sought by Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A project report for the development of Buckinjham Canal and Commamur Canal between Madras and Vijaywada at on estimated of Rs. 37.18 crores has been submitted in February, 1991 for consideration as Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which 50 per cent of the sanctioned cost is provided as Central loan assistance.

Naxalites in the Country

270. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAISE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the activities of naxalites have of late increased in the country; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy of the government is to deal firmly with the extremist elements in the country and simultaneously step up socio-econmoic development of affetced areas to redress genuine grievances of the local people and thus wean them away from the extremist's influence. All possible assistance is being provided by the Central Government to the affected states in this context.

Law and Order situation in Jammu and Kashmir

271. SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the law and order situation has further deteriorated in recent weeks in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to restore law and order there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The terrorist violence including targetted attacks on Security forces continued to be of serious proportions.

(b) Besides, stepping up vigil on the border, Government of Jammu & Kashmir has identified vulnerable pockets and active gangs for gearing up anti-terrorist operations organising Naka ambushes and effective deployment of paramilitary forces in the affected/sensitive pockets. Day and Night patrolling in vulnerable areas, raids on hideouts of terrorists and extortionists have been intensified. Intelligence has also been strengthened. In addition to continuing the stringent measures against the terrorists, it is also proposed to set up Peoples' Committees in the State to bridge the gap between the Government and the people and to enlarge employment opportunities for the youth.

मुजफ्फरपुर टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज को इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज में परिवर्तित किया जाना

272 श्री रजनी रंजन साहू: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मुजफ्फरपुर (बिहार) के टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज को कब तक इलेक्ट्रोनिक एक्सचेंज में परिवर्तित कर दिये जाने की संभावना है; और